

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A surgical instrument comprising:
 - 2 a tube having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end including a cutting
 - 3 edge; and
 - 4 a shaft within said tube, said shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, said
 - 5 distal end of said shaft including a blade, one of said shaft and said tube being rotatable
 - 6 with respect to the other such that said blade cooperates with said cutting edge.
- 1 2. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said shaft is coaxial with said tube.
- 1 3. The instrument of claim 2 wherein said shaft has an inner lumen.
- 1 4. The instrument of claim 2 wherein said shaft has an inner lumen such that an
 - 2 imaging device may be inserted therein.
- 1 5. The instrument of claim 2 wherein said shaft has an inner lumen such that a
 - 2 separate surgical instrument may be inserted therein.
- 1 6. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said tube has a first axis and said shaft has a
 - 2 second axis displaced from said first axis.

1 7. The instrument of claim 1 wherein one of said cutting edge and said blade is
2 adapted to be electrically energized.

1 8. The instrument of claim 1 wherein both said cutting edge and said blade are
2 adapted to be electrically energized.

1 9. The instrument of claim 1 further comprising an outer electrode on a surface of said
2 tube, said outer electrode being adjacent said cutting edge, and an inner electrode on a
3 surface of said blade, wherein said blade and said cutting edge mechanically cooperate to
4 cut body tissue, and said inner electrode cooperates with said outer electrode to provide
5 electrocautery of the body tissue being cut.

1 10. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said tube is fixedly attached to a handle and said
2 shaft is rotatable relative to said tube.

1 11. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said shaft is fixedly attached to a handle and said
2 tube is rotatable relative to said shaft.

1 12. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said shaft and said tube are both rotatable.

1 13. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said blade has an elongated portion having two
2 opposing surfaces and a cutting edge between said opposing surfaces, said opposing
3 surfaces having an insulating layer thereon.

1 14. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said blade includes a serrated cutting edge.

1 15. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said cutting edge on said tube is serrated.

1 16. A surgical instrument comprising:

2 a tube having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end including an outer
3 cutting edge; and

4 a tubular shaft within said tube and coaxial with said tube, said shaft having a distal
5 end, a proximal end, and a blade extending longitudinally from said distal end, said blade
6 including an inner cutting edge, wherein said tube and said tubular shaft are rotatable
7 about a common axis such that said inner cutting edge is operatively associated with said
8 outer cutting edge.

1 17. The instrument of claim 16 wherein at least one of said blade and said outer cutting
2 edge is adapted to be electrically energized.

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1 18. The instrument of claim 16 further comprising an outer electrode on a surface of
2 said tube, said outer electrode being adjacent said outer cutting edge, and an inner
3 electrode on a surface of said blade, wherein said blade and said outer cutting edge
4 mechanically cooperate to cut body tissue, and said inner electrode cooperates with said
5 outer electrode to provide electrocautery of the body tissue being cut.

1 19. The instrument of claim 16 wherein one of said outer cutting edge and said inner
2 cutting edge is serrated.

1 20. The instrument of claim 16 wherein said distal end of said tube includes a first outer
2 cutting edge and a second outer cutting edge and said blade includes a first inner cutting
3 edge and a second inner cutting edge.

1 21. The instrument of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first outer cutting edge, said
2 second outer cutting edge, said first inner cutting edge, and said second inner cutting edge
3 is serrated.

1 22. The instrument of claim 16 further comprising a handle operatively associated with
2 said proximal ends of said tube and said tubular shaft.

1 23. The instrument of claim 22 wherein said handle includes a tube controller coupled
2 to said tube and a shaft controller coupled to said shaft.

1 24. The instrument of claim 23 wherein said handle includes an elongated grip, said
2 tube controller includes a first ring rotatably mounted on said grip, and said shaft
3 controller includes a second ring rotatably mounted on said grip.

1 25. The instrument of claim 16 wherein said shaft is tubular and defines an inner
2 lumen.

1 26. The instrument of claim 25 wherein said inner lumen is configured to receive an
2 imaging device inserted therein.

1 27. The instrument of claim 25 wherein said inner lumen is configured to receive a
2 separate surgical instrument inserted therein.

1 28. A surgical instrument comprising:
2 a handle;
3 a tube extending from and coupled to said handle, said tube having a distal end
4 and a cutting edge at said distal end, said tube having a proximal end associated with said
5 handle; and
6 a tubular shaft defining a lumen coaxial with said tube, said shaft rotatably
7 disposed within said tube, said shaft having a proximal end adjacent said handle and a
8 distal end adjacent said distal end of said tube, said shaft having a cutting edge at its distal
9 end, wherein one of said cutting edge on said shaft and said cutting edge on said tube is
10 adapted to be electrically energized.

1 29. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said handle defines an opening in
2 communication with said lumen of said tubular shaft wherein said opening and said
3 lumen provide access through the instrument to said distal end of said tubular shaft.

1 30. The instrument of claim 29 further comprising an auxiliary instrument inserted
2 through said opening.

1 31. The instrument of claim 27 wherein said auxiliary instrument is selected from the
2 group consisting of a suction cannula, an irrigation cannula, an imaging device, and a
3 sensor.

1 32. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said cutting edge on said tube extends at an
2 angle away from said tube.

1 33. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said cutting edge on said shaft extends at an
2 angle away from said tube.

1 34. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said distal end of said tube includes a first
2 scoop and said distal end of said shaft includes a second scoop such that said first and
3 second scoops are operatively associated to collect a biopsy sample when said shaft is
4 rotated within said tube.

1 35. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said tube and said shaft are telescoping.

1 36. The instrument of claim 28 wherein said tube and said shaft are bendable.

1 37. A surgical instrument comprising:
2 a handle;
3 a tube having a distal end and an outer blade extending from said distal end, said
4 tube having a proximal end associated with said handle; and
5 a shaft disposed within said tube, said shaft having a distal end adjacent said distal
6 end of said tube, said shaft having an inner blade extending from said distal end, said
7 shaft having a proximal end extending into said handle, wherein said inner blade and said
8 outer blade are adapted to be electrically energized.

1 38. The instrument of claim 37 wherein said tube has a first longitudinal axis and said
2 shaft has a second longitudinal axis displaced from said first longitudinal axis.

1 39. The instrument of claim 38 wherein said tube is fixedly attached to said handle and
2 said shaft is revolvable about said first longitudinal axis relative to said tube.

1 40. The instrument of claim 38 wherein said shaft is fixedly attached to said handle and
2 said tube is rotatable about said first longitudinal axis relative to said shaft.

1 41. The instrument of claim 36 wherein said shaft is revolvable about said first
2 longitudinal axis relative to said tube, and said tube is rotatable about said first
3 longitudinal axis relative to said shaft.

1 42. A method for cutting body tissue, the method comprising:
2 inserting a surgical instrument comprising a tube having a distal end, a proximal
3 end, a longitudinal axis between said distal and proximal ends, and a cutting edge at said
4 distal end of said tube, said instrument further including a shaft having a distal end, a
5 proximal end, and a blade at said distal end of said shaft, said shaft being rotatably
6 disposed within said tube such that said cutting edge and said blade are rotatably
7 engageable;
8 aligning the body tissue to be cut between said cutting edge and said blade; and
9 rotating at least one of said tube and said shaft about said longitudinal axis such
10 that said cutting edge and said blade engage to cut the body tissue.

1 43. The method of claim 42 further comprising electrically energizing at least one of
2 said cutting edge and said blade wherein the body tissue is cauterized.